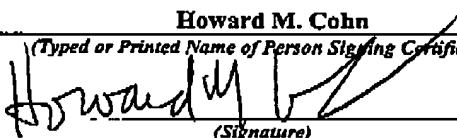


JAN 13 2006

<b>CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION BY FACSIMILE (37 CFR 1.8)</b> Applicant(s): America, et al.			Docket No. FIS920040013US1		
Application No. 10/708,648		Filing Date March 17, 2004		Examiner Mohsen Ahmadi	Group Art Unit 2812
Invention: <b>OXIDIZED TANTALUM NITRIDE AS AN IMPROVED HARDMASK IN DUAL DAMASCENE PROCESSING</b>					
<p>I hereby certify that this <u>Amendment</u> (Identify type of correspondence) is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (Fax. No. <u>571-273-8300</u> on <u>January 13, 2006</u> (Date)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Howard M. Cohn</u> (Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate)  (Signature)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Note: Each paper must have its own certificate of mailing.</p>					

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Appl. No. 10/708,648  
Amdt. Dated 01/13/2006  
Reply to Office action of October 13, 2005

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Confirmation No. 2647

In re : Application of America, et al.  
For : OXIDIZED TANTALUM NITRIDE AS AN IMPROVED  
HARDMASK IN DUAL DAMASCENE PROCESSING  
Serial No. : 10/708,648  
Filed : March 17, 2004  
Group Art Unit : 2812  
Examiner : Mohsen Ahmadi  
Our Docket No. : FIS920040013US1  
Customer No. : 24036

January 13, 2006

By Fax 571-273-8300

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated October 13, 2005 having a shortened statutory period of response set to expire on January 13, 2006.

Please amend the referenced application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper.

Page 1 of 20

Appl. No. 10/708,648  
Amdt. Dated 01/13/2006  
Reply to Office action of October 13, 2005  
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Name of Person Signing Certificate : Howard M. Cohn  
Signature :   
Date of Person signing : January 13, 2006

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